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Largest Sunspot in Years Observed on the Sun (Summary)

Sunspots have existed for a long time, and just recently the largest sunspot was found. The sunspot, AR1339, is 50,000 miles long and 25,000 miles wide. Although it is the largest sunspot, we can’t spot it just yet because the sun is facing the opposite side. Thanks to NASA Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO), we are able to observe it. Sunspots are dimmer than the sun itself and cooler. Although sunspots are “cool”, they are a handful. AR1339 can affect the satellites and comes with a few solar flares. There are reports out there that a solar flare has been spotted, but it wasn’t directed at Earth.

After reading this article, I was surprised at the size of the sunspot spotted on the sun. I was also surprised because I had also learned about sunspots in my astronomy class. I’m glad I was able to relate what I learned in class with this article. AR1339 is really large. The article actually compared the Earth to the sunspot and says that earth is about 8,000 miles wide. Compared to AR1339, which is 25,000 miles wide, Earth is pretty small. I still can’t get over the size of the sun compared to earth. Hopefully, the sun flare/sunspot wouldn’t affect our satellites.